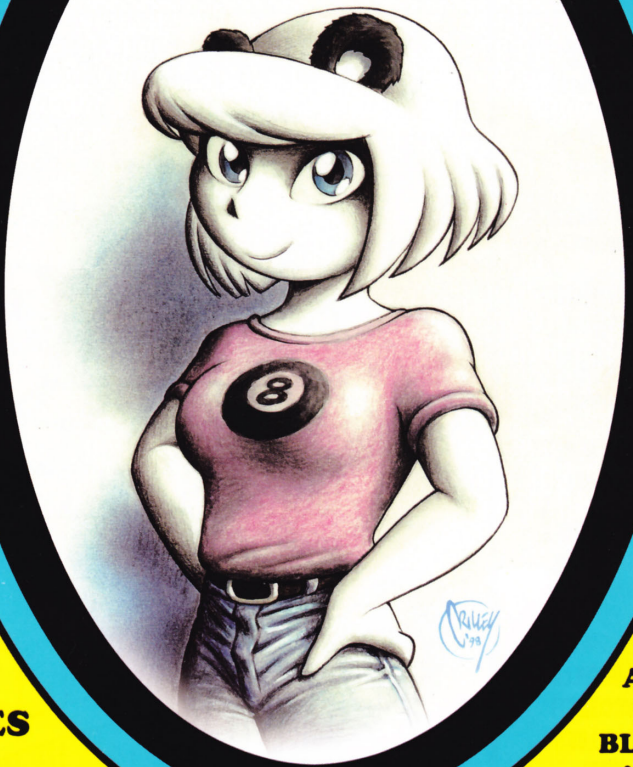
SHANDA FANTASY ARTS

25 JLY 1999

$4.95

Mature Readers

Shanda THE PANDA



48 PAGES OF FUN!

ALL IN BLACK AND WHITE

CELEBRATING OUR BECOMING THE LONGEST RUNNING ANTHROPOMORPHIC SLICE OF LIFE COMIC !

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SHANDA FANTASY ARTS
the inner circle

You'll have a treasure if you stay there
More precious far than gold
For once you have found your way there
You can never grow old

And that's my home
Where dreams are born
And time is never planned
It's not on any chart
You must find it with your heart
Never Never Land

Paige Phillips
1969-1999

SHANDA THE PANDA #25 is published quarterly by **SHANDA FANTASY ARTS PO BOX 2452 CONWAY ARK 72032** shandafa@cyberback.com **SHANDA characters are copyright** 1999 Mike Curtis All art and stories are copyright the respective creators. Nothing from this book may be reproduced without the express written permission of the copyright holders except for short excerpts for advertising and promotion. No similarity to any person to any persons place or thing is intended and any similarity is Purely coincidental. "Pandas are rare you know." Printed at Mighty Morgan Printing by our pal Toni.

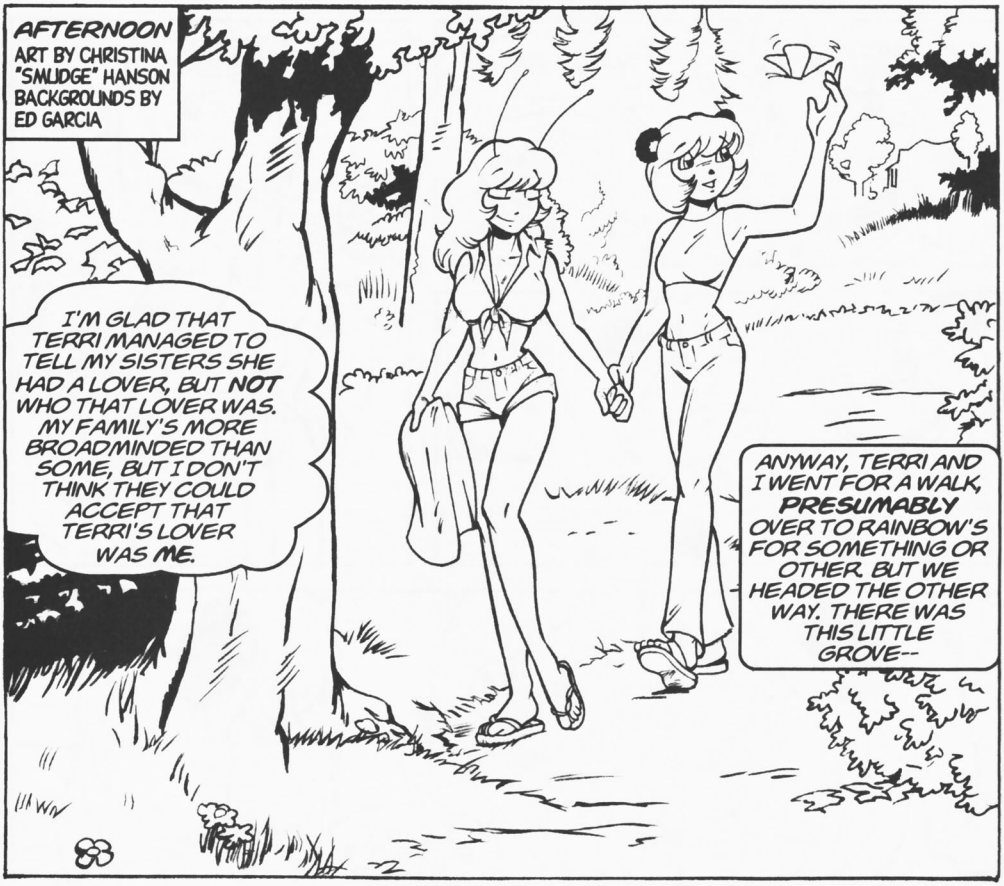
MORNING
MRGLL FZLITE?
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SHANDA!
-MY BIRTHDAY WAS SUCH A STRANGE DAY-
SCRIPT: MIKE CURTIS
INKS & LETTERING
PART 1-3
STEVE ADDLSEE
FENDER & MARCY
ART PART 2
MICHELLE LIGHT

I WAS SO SURPRISED! KERI AND JAN ARRIVED LAST WEEK WITH DADDY, SO MY FAMILY WAS ALL TOGETHER.
MOMMY, YOU GOTTA OPEN MY PRESENT NOW!
WHY?
'CAUSE SHE DON'T LIKE BEIN' IN A BOX.
MAO?
SHE'S ADORABLE! WHERE DID YOU GET HER?
AT THE RAILYARD--
SHE WAS SQUASHED BETWEEN TWO CARS, SO WE'VE BEEN CALLING HER "SQUEEZE".

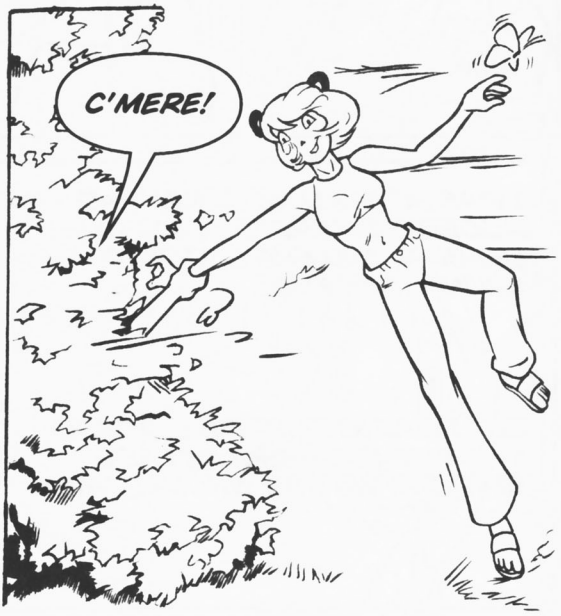
HAPPY 23, SHANDALAR.
THANKS, DADDY. HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR NEW BABY?
OH, TERRY'S WONDERFUL. BUT--
YOUR GRANDMOTHER DOESN'T LIKE THE IDEA.
SHE'S SO XENOPHOBIC. I WONDER WHAT SHE THINKS OF RICHARD?
OH, I CAN TELL YOU.
"NO MATTER HOW NICE HE IS, HE'S NOT A PANDA!"
OF COURSE.
HOW IS SHE WITH YOU AND BERNARD?
I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL HE GETS HERE THIS AFTERNOON SO YOU CAN ALL MEET HIM.
LET'S DO IT OUTSIDE.
HE'S SWEET, BUT II'M GLAD SHE'S CHAPERONING.
THAT PANDA SCENT IS STRONG!
TOLD YA!

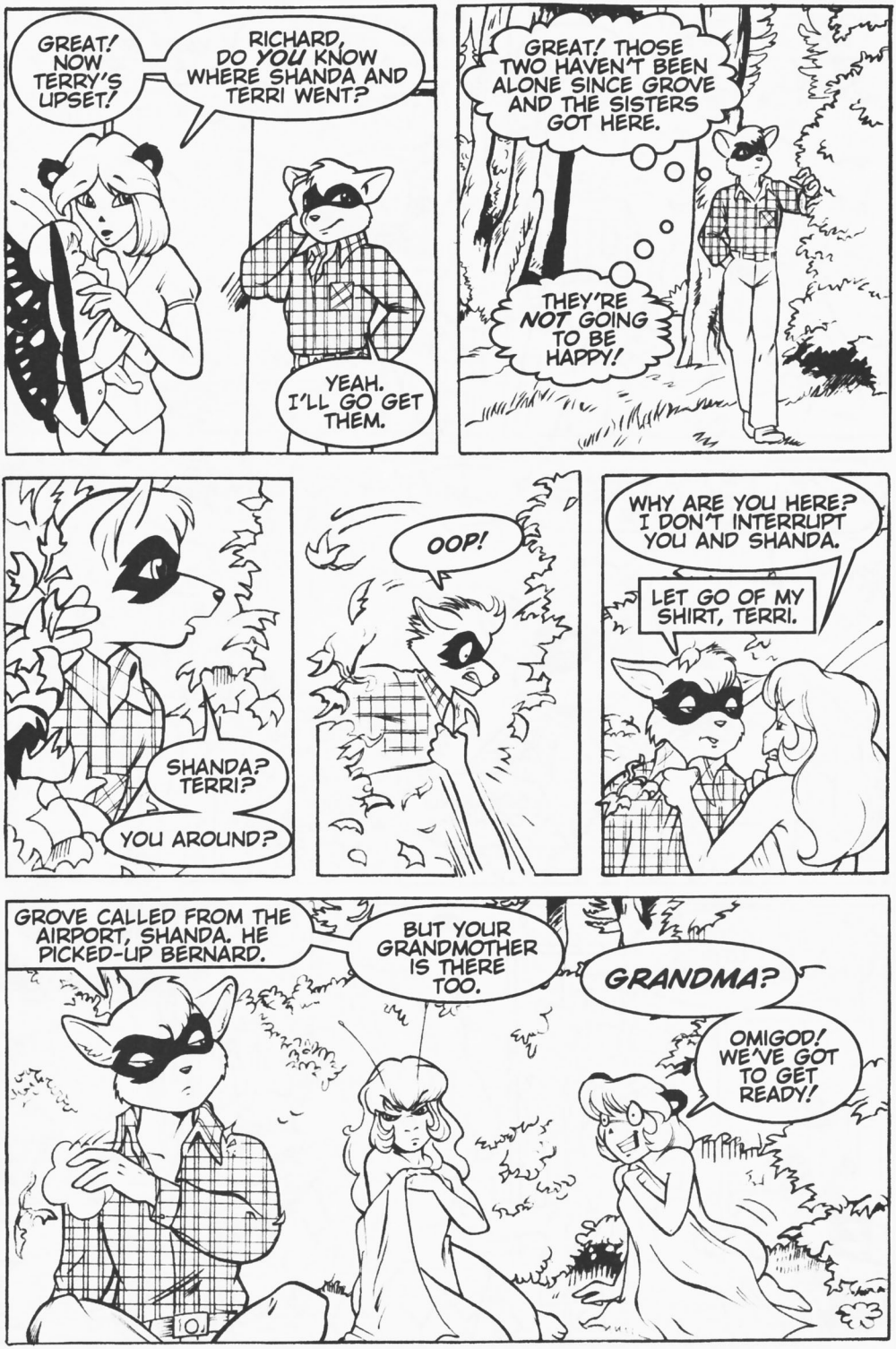
LET'S GO OUT AND LET THE GIRLS TALK.
OKAY.
COME ON, QUINN.
WELL, SHANDA, HAVE YOU DONE IT YET?
GUYS--
COME ON--
SHANDA, YOU'RE THE BIG SISTER. I HAVE TO FIND OUT BEFORE BERNARD GETS TOO FRISKY.
EHHHH--
=sigh=
TERRI, WE'RE LEAVING YOU OUT.
HAVE YOU GOT A GIRLFRIEND?
HUH?

WELL, YES--
TELL US ABOUT HER.
IS SHE SWEET?
WELL, SHE'S BLONDE.
AND SHE LOOKS REAL GOOD IN JEANS...
AND NOTHING ELSE.
OOH!
WHAT'S HER NAME?
I CAN'T SAY. BUT I CALL HER "SUGAR TIT".
I WAS SO GLAD MY FAMILY HAD ACCEPTED TERRI'S BEING A LESBIAN, AND SHE ENJOYED HAVING "SISTERS".
BUT I WAS KIND OF MELANCHOLY. THIS WAS PROBABLY MY LAST BIRTHDAY WITH MY WHOLE FAMILY.


AFTERNOON
ART BY CHRISTINA "SMUDGE" HANSON
BACKGROUNDS BY ED GARCIA
I'M GLAD THAT TERRI MANAGED TO TELL MY SISTERS SHE HAD A LOVER, BUT NOT WHO THAT LOVER WAS. MY FAMILY'S MORE BROADMINDED THAN SOME, BUT I DON'T THINK THEY COULD ACCEPT THAT TERRI'S LOVER WAS ME.
ANYWAY, TERRI AND I WENT FOR A WALK, PRESUMABLY OVER TO RAINBOW'S FOR SOMETHING OR OTHER. BUT WE HEADED THE OTHER WAY. THERE WAS THIS LITTLE GROVE--

HEY, SHANDA!
WHAT?


C'MERE!

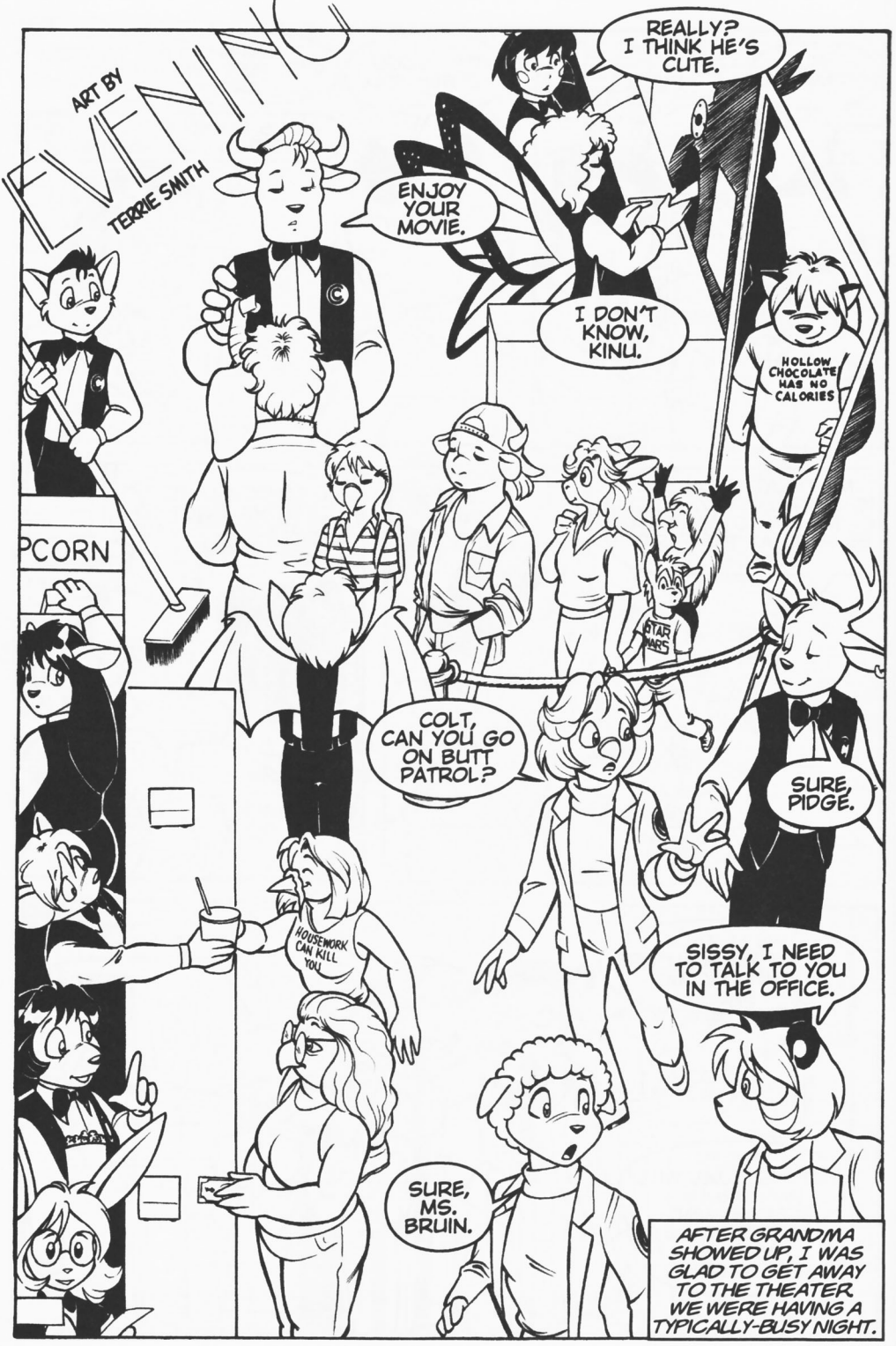

GREAT! NOW TERRY'S UPSET!
RICHARD, DO YOU KNOW WHERE SHANDA AND TERRI WENT?
YEAH. I'LL GO GET THEM.
GREAT! THOSE TWO HAVEN'T BEEN ALONE SINCE GROVE AND THE SISTERS GOT HERE.
THEY'RE NOT GOING TO BE HAPPY!
SHANDA? TERRI?
YOU AROUND?
OOP!
WHY ARE YOU HERE? I DON'T INTERRUPT YOU AND SHANDA.
LET GO OF MY SHIRT, TERRI.
GROVE CALLED FROM THE AIRPORT, SHANDA. HE PICKED-UP BERNARD.
BUT YOUR GRANDMOTHER IS THERE TOO.
GRANDMA?
OMIGOD! WE'VE GOT TO GET READY!

RICHARD, I'M SORRY I LOST MY TEMPER.
THAT'S OKAY.
WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH YOUR GRANDMOTHER, SHANDA?
SHE'S VERY SPECIES-CONCIOUS.
PANDAS MARRY PANDAS!
ZIP
IN FACT, SHE WAS GOING TO MATCHMAKE ME WITH BERNARD WHEN I WAS 19.
YEAH--
SPEAKING OF HIM--
WILL YOU BE OKAY MEETING HIM? THAT PANDA SCENT, AND ALL--
IT'S NOT AS BAD THE SECOND TIME.
BESIDES, WING USED HERBS AND SUCH TOO.
ANYWAY, WE'LL MEET OUTSIDE IN THE FRESH AIR.
QUINN, WHY IS THE TV SCREEN SO DIRTY?
SHICK!
TERRY DOES IT, MAMA BEAR. I'LL SHOW YOU.

SEE, WHEN YOU TURN ON THE TV, HE KEEPS BUMPIN' HIS NOSE ON THE SCREEN!
WOWSERS!
LORD, THERE'S SO MUCH TO LEARN WITH A FLYING TODDLER.
MOM, THEY'RE HERE!
BERNIE! I MISSED YOU!
JAN, BABYDOLL!

SHANDA! LOOK AT HIS EARS AND HAIR!
THEY'RE BROWN!
WHAT'S SO ODD ABOUT THAT?
PANDAS ARE ALWAYS BLACK AND WHITE!
AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT--
TERRI, I THINK BERNARD'S SCENT IS DRIFTING OVER HERE.
WHY?
OH!
THINK GOOD THOUGHTS--AND DON'T LOOK AT KERI OR JUNE.
SHANDA, THIS IS BERNIE. THIS IS MOM, MY SISTERS SHANDA AND KERI; RICHARD AND TERRI.
I KNOW YOU'RE STARING AT MY EARS AND HAIR--
THINK MOM LIKES HIM?
YES. WHAT'S THE STORY THERE?
I'M A BROWN PANDA, MRS. BRUIN. NOT VERY MANY OF US.
RARE, HUH?
SHE WAS THIS WAY WITH RICHARD, TOO.

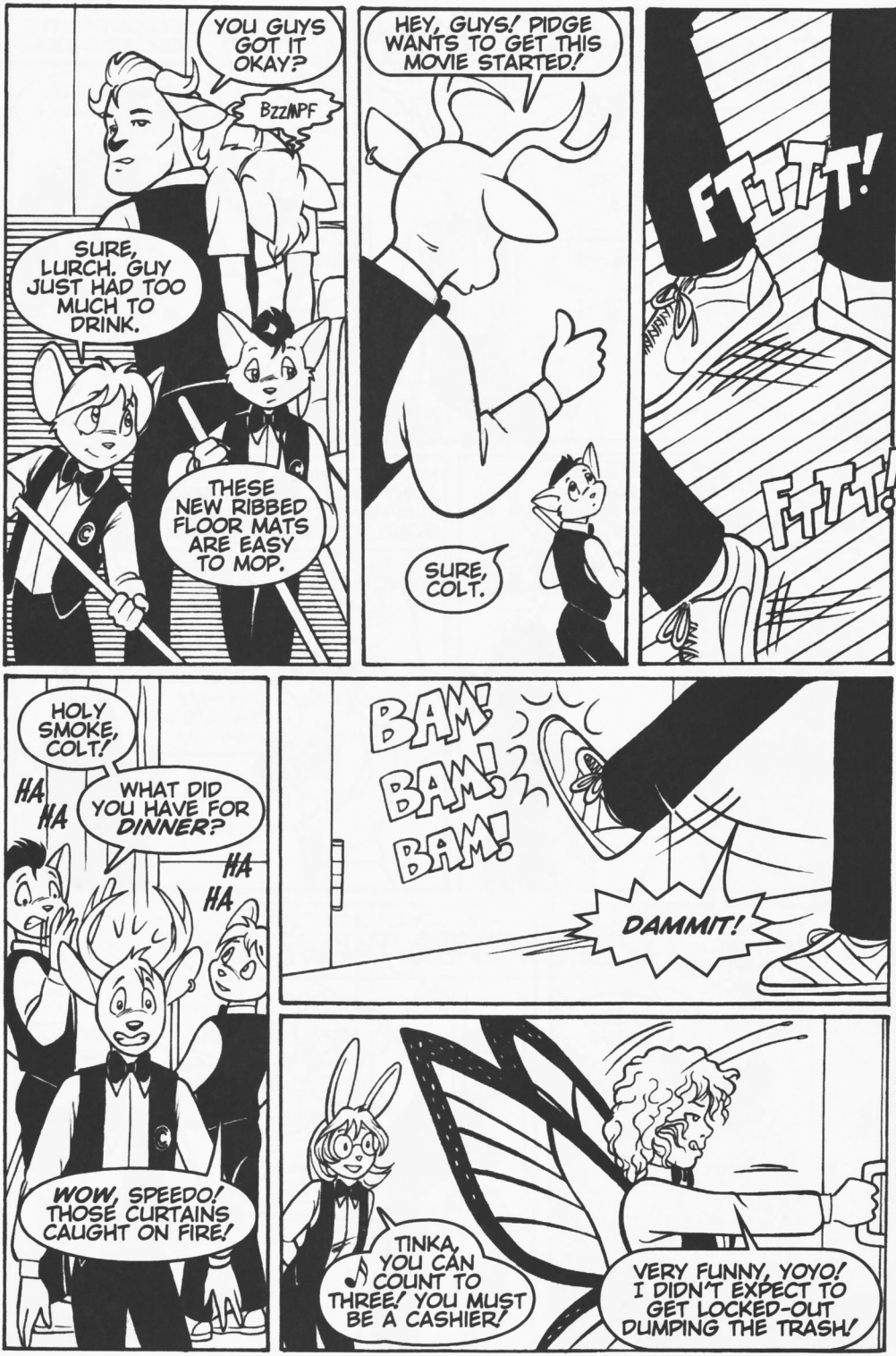
HI, GRANDMA.
HELLO, SHANDA. HAPPY BIRTHDAY.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU.
WELL, IT'S *BEEN* TWO YEARS.
JAN'S DOING WELL IN THE POSITION YOU DECLINED.
MY THEATER CAREER IS GOING NICELY. MOST OF MY EMPLOYEES WILL BE HERE AT THE PARTY TONIGHT.
THAT'S NICE.
GRANDDAUGHTER, I PROMISE NOT TO QUARREL ON YOUR BIRTHDAY.
THANKS.
WE'LL TALK ABOUT YOUR FUTURE WHEN I COME BACK.
COME BACK?
YES. IN AUGUST, *JAN* WILL RUN BRUIN'S DEPARTMENT STORE WHILE I VISIT YOU FOR A WEEK.
OH JOY.


EVENING
ART BY TERRIE SMITH
REALLY? I THINK HE'S CUTE.
ENJOY YOUR MOVIE.
I DON'T KNOW, KINU.
HOLLOW CHOCOLATE HAS NO CALORIES
PCORN
COLT, CAN YOU GO ON BUTT PATROL?
SURE, PIDGE.
HOUSEWORK CAN KILL YOU!
SISSY, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU IN THE OFFICE.
SURE, MS. BRUIN.
AFTER GRANDMA SHOWED UP, I WAS GLAD TO GET AWAY TO THE THEATER. WE WERE HAVING A TYPICALLY-BUSY NIGHT.

DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG, MS. BRUIN?
NO, SISSY. YOU KNOW DEBBIE, THE EWINGVILLE MANAGER?
THE WOODPECKER?
SURE, WE'VE MET.
SHE'S GOING ON VACATION NEXT WEEK.
CYCLONE
HER ASSISTANT LEFT FOR COLLEGE, AND I RECOMMENDED YOU TO RUN HER TWIN SCREEN.
ME?
SURE. YOU RAN THIS PLACE ON MY VACATION. AND YOU'LL GET A NICE BONUS.
AMERICAN
BUT I KNOW ALL THE KIDS HERE.
THEY'RE USED TO ME BOSSING THEM.
THE MASK OF BURRO
IT WAS THAT WAY WHEN I WAS AN ASSISTANT, TOO. BUT YOU CAN TAKE ONE OF OUR EMPLOYEES WITH YOU, FOR A HELPER. YOU'LL NEED IT FOR THE WEEKEND THERE.
GOT ANY IDEAS?
I KNOW JUST WHO TO ASK.

I THINK BRAM REALLY LIKES YOU, TINKA.
YOU THINK SO? I SEE HIM IN TEMPLE EVERY WEEK.
WELL, MAYBE YOU SHOULD LOOK AT HIM CLOSER.
BRAM, I NEED SPEEDO, LURCH AND SCOTTY!
HEY, GUYS!
YOU THREE GO TO AUDITORIUM 5 WITH MOPS. SOME GUY'S DRUNK AND LOST HIS LUNCH. GET HIM OUT AND DO A QUICK CLEAN-UP.
GEEZ-
COLT! I NEED YOU TOO!
TELL PIDGE TO HOLD NUMBER 5!
RIGHT, BOSS!
YOU PLAYED RIGHT INTO COLT'S HANDS, MS. BRUIN.
OH?
DIDN'T YOU KNOW HE HAS A CRUSH ON PIDGE?
OH!

GOT IT STOPPED JUST IN TIME. THEY'RE GETTING IT CLEAN.
HEY, PIDGE. WHEN OUR CHOIR SANG AT THE THIRD ST. CHURCH...
YES?
I SAW YOU OUT IN THE CONGREGATION.
I WAS THERE. YOU ALL SANG NICELY.
YEAH, WELL... IT'S AN AFRICAN-METHODIST CHURCH. I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE YOU THERE. I MEAN, YOU'RE NOT AFRICAN.
NO. BUT UNCLE ED AND AUNT MATTY WERE AFRICAN ELEPHANTS. I'VE ALWAYS GONE TO CHURCH THERE.
I DIDN'T THINK STAGS WERE AFRICAN!
UH--MY MOTHER'S AN IMPALA-
HM.
I THINK THEY'RE THROUGH. GO DOWNSTAIRS AND CHECK, OKAY?
SURE, PIDGE.
AND COLT? DON'T BE SO SENSITIVE. YOU DIDN'T KNOW I GO TO AN AFRICAN CHURCH.


YOU GUYS GOT IT OKAY?
BZZMPF
SURE, LURCH. GUY JUST HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK.
THESE NEW RIBBED FLOOR MATS ARE EASY TO MOP.
HEY, GUYS! PIDGE WANTS TO GET THIS MOVIE STARTED!
SURE, COLT.
FTTTT!
FTTT!
HOLY SMOKE, COLT!
HA HA
WHAT DID YOU HAVE FOR DINNER?
HA HA
WOW, SPEEDO! THOSE CURTAINS CAUGHT ON FIRE!
BAM! BAM! BAM!
DAMMIT!
TINKA, YOU CAN COUNT TO THREE! YOU MUST BE A CASHIER!
VERY FUNNY, YOYO! I DIDN'T EXPECT TO GET LOCKED-OUT DUMPING THE TRASH!

GANGWAY!
WHAT'S GOING ON BACK HERE?
HI, SISSY. WE'RE LOCKED OUT.
BAM!
BAM!
YOU TWO GO BACK IN. LET THEM THROUGH, COLT.
I NEED TO TALK TO SPEEDO.
WHAT DID I DO NOW, SISSY?
NOTHING, SPEEDO.
I'VE GOT TO RUN EWINGVILLE FOR A WEEK AND I NEED AN ASSISTANT.
I WANT YOU.
ME? WHY?
I CAN RELY ON YOU, MISSY DOES. AND I TRUST YOU.
YOU KEPT THAT BUSINESS WITH MY FATHER SECRET.
THIS IS HARD TO BELIEVE.
THINK HOW I FEEL ABOUT IT.

NIGHT
MIKE CURTIS - CARLA SPEED McNEIL - JULY 99
FINALLY IT WAS TIME FOR MY PARTY! I'D BEEN NERVOUS ABOUT IT FOR WEEKS, BECAUSE THIS TIME I WAS GONNA BE THE SURPRISE!
OH, RICHARD--THIS IS MY SISTER ULA. SHE WORKS OVER AT DOC EINSTEIN'S.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, MA'AM.
NO! YOU TWO GOT MARRIED!
YUP! SEEMED LIKE THE RIGHT TIME.
OH, WHAT A CUTIE, MS. BRUIN! AND HE'S FLYING SO WELL!
PSST-- LOST MY SCORE CARD -- WHO ARE THE CRICKET AND THE TIGER?
NORM AND BARBARA. THEY'RE POLICE OFFICERS.
AHEM
SKEEENNGGG
HI FOLKS! WE'RE GLAD TO BE HERE TONIGHT TO CELEBRATE SHANDA'S BIRTHDAY!
FWEEEEEE!
YAHOOO!
CLAP
WE'RE BILLY RAY STUN GUN! THIS IS OUR FIRST REAL GIG, AND WE'RE GONNA OPEN WITH A FAVORITE OF OURS FROM THE MONKEES!

CIRCLE SKY
TELLING LIES
SHANDA?
WHOA. I'VE NEVER SEEN HER HAIR LIKE THAT!
OH YEAH, SHE DID IT UP LIKE THAT FOR A TALENT SHOW. WON, TOO!
HASN'T SHE EVER DONE ELVIS FOR YOU GUYS BEFORE?

THIS I'VE HEARD TOO MUCH ABOUT TO MISS. I'M GOING TO GET IN A LITTLE CLOSER--
IS IT SO BORING TO STAY HERE WITH ME?

SIGH
NO, MOTHER.
GROVE, YOU ARE THE PEARL OF MY YOUTH AND THE HEARTBREAK OF MY OLD AGE.

OH, LIGHTEN UP, MOTHER. YOU HAVEN'T SAID A WORD ABOUT YOUR NEW GRAND-SON.

LONG
ICKY
SILENCE

HE'S A FINE BOY, MOTHER. JUNE AND I ARE VERY HAPPY.
I CANNOT BELIEVE YOU WOULD DO SUCH A HEARTLESS THING.

WHAT? TO WHO, YOU? THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU --
IT HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH YOU. YOU ARE A PURE-BRED PANDA. ALL YOU KNOW ARE PANDAS. ALL YOU WILL EVER KNOW ARE PANDAS.

THIS CHILD IS NOT ONLY NOT A PANDA, IT-- HE -- IS NOT EVEN A MAMMAL. YOU CANNOT KNOW INSTINCTIVELY, AS A PARENT SHOULD, ITS-- HIS-- SPECIAL NEEDS.
YOU CAN NEVER UNDERSTAND HIM, NOR HE, YOU. YET YOU WILL TAKE HIM FROM HIS PROPER PLACE, BECAUSE YOU WANT A SON.
TOO PROUD TO HAVE ONLY DAUGHTERS, I SUPPOSE.
I JUST CANNOT BELIEVE THIS!

OOH, IT'S DOWN AT THE END OF LONELY STREET, IT'S
HEARTBREAK HOTEL!
MOMMY'S GOOD, ISN'T SHE, PERRY?
UHH... UH HUH.
SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE SOMEBODY, RIGHT, QUINN?
PUG
HOUSE PRESS
HAHAHAHA
CLAP CLAP CLAPPA CLAP CLAP CLAP
THANKYUH, THANKYUH VERY MUCH. WE'RE GUNNA TAKE FAHN 'N' COME RAHT BACK--
FWEET

HEY. THAT
=UH=
THAT KINDA DIDN'T SUCK.
??
WELL. THANKYUH, PENNY, HUNNY.
UMMM, SUGAR TIT, I LIKE THAT LOOK ON YOU!
REALLY?
YEAH! WHY DON'T YOU WEAR IT TO BED LATER? RUFF!
HM.
HOW D'YOU LIKE IT, LOVER?
OH, I LIKE IT FINE, BUT LISTEN--
--I THINK YOU NEED TO TALK TO YOUR DAD. HE'S REALLY UPSET.
OH?
GRANDMA!

LOOK, GRANDMA, YOU SAID WE WOULDN'T FIGHT ON MY BIRTHDAY. YOU APOLOGIZE TO DADDY RIGHT NOW, OR SO HELP ME, WE'LL HAVE IT OUT IN FRONT OF THE WHOLE CROWD!
=SIGH= VERY WELL. I'LL KEEP MY WORD.
I THINK YOU'RE WANTED ON STAGE.
YOU'RE SUCH A YOUNG WOMAN YET, GRANDDAUGHTER. YOU DON'T KNOW HOW A WOMAN COLLECTS HER REGRETS ONE BY ONE, AND KEEPS THEM CLOSE TO HER ALWAYS.
OKAY, THIS ONE'S FOR THE BIRTHDAY LADY. IT'S AN R.E.M. SONG.
THAT WAS WAY TOO EASY. THIS IS JUST A CEASE-FIRE TILL SHE COMES BACK IN AUGUST.
DAMN! SHE IS SUCH A TIGHTASS!
I'M OKAY, SKEETER.
ONE TWO THREE FOUR
DOESN'T MATTER. I FACED DOWN DADDY, I FOUGHT OFF WING, AND I CAN HANDLE GRANDMA. I'M OKAY.
I'M
I AM, I AM--
I'M
I AM SUPERMAN--
AND I CAN DO ANYTHING!
END

What a Long Strange Trip It's Been.....

It was 8 years ago this month that I received 3 model sheets from Mike Sagara. That's why Shanda's birthday is in July. She'd been around for a while, but she "came to life" at that moment.

Hi, I'm Mike Curtis. At that time, I was running a four screen theater in Cedar Rapids Iowa. Since 1983 I had been writing stories for Harvey Comics. I preferred RICHIE RICH, but had been doing NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK most recently. I had an idea for a character of my own, one I probably would see about getting in a fanzine.

Her name was SHANDA THE PANDA. She had two sisters GOLDA and SILVA, and was from Tibet. In the storyline, she was arriving in the United States, and there was a great hubbub. It seemed that Golda had visited here in the 1930's, and Silva in the 50's. Now there was going to be another great age of superheroes, as anyone who "dated" the sisters would gain superpowers. Sounds lousy, doesn't it? I thought so too, although I liked the name.

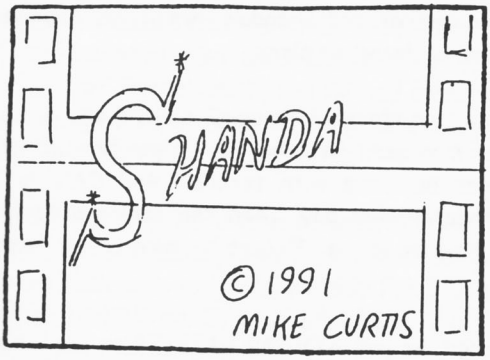
Reading AMAZING HEROES, I saw a review of a small press comic called HEY NEETERS, by Mike Sagara. I ordered one issue, then the set. I really liked Mike's art style. Then one day during a particularly boring manager's meeting, I Decided to try sketching Shanda in that style. Here She is to the right. NOW something clicked! This Character looked alive! She was captivating, and I Was wondering what she was trying to tell me.

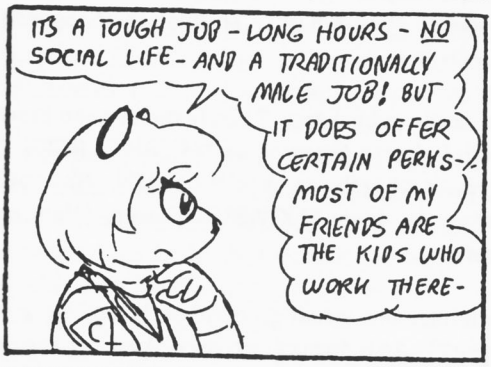
I couldn't use that old storyline with her, it didn't Fit. Then I thought...she could run a theater like Myself. I saw many possibilities there. In my field Female managers weren't counted very highly. I Thought she might be far from home and lonely too, Like myself. At the time, Carole was still in Omaha, As she had agreed to manage a business until her Friend returned from medical leave.

I began talking with Carole and hashing out the character. She needed a best friend. I remembered a lady who was the manager of a sporting good store next to my theater in New Orleans. She would come over and scope out the girls. I knew lots of "types" from the many staffers I had worked with in my theaters. Some I took verbatim, like Sissy and Missy. Others I combined into one person. I had many "Speedos." Yoyo was three people, the look of one, the sexual nature of another, and the name from a theater employee at a friend's theater. Around this time, I told Mike Sagara about the project and he agreed to work with me on it. In July I got 3 model sheets.

On the page opposite is my first attempt to get to know Shanda. Different, isn't it?

One page presentation of Shanda.




ITS A TOUGH JOB - LONG HOURS - NO SOCIAL LIFE - AND A TRADITIONALLY MALE JOB! BUT IT DOES OFFER CERTAIN PERKS - MOST OF MY FRIENDS ARE THE KIDS WHO WORK THERE -

LIKE MISSY AND SISSY AND LURCH. OH - I HAVE A FRIEND OUTSIDE THE THEATER TOO - HER NAME IS TERRI AND SHE WORKS AS A BARTENDER. SHES A LESBIAN, BUT I WONT FIND THAT OUT FOR A WHILE -

ANYWAY - ITS A REAL "SLICE-OF LIFE" COMIC! WITH FACT. PAGES, THEATER TIPS - SPECIAL FEATURES, ETC. FOR INSTANCE, DID YOU KNOW THEATER MANAGEMENT IS THE LAST LEGAL FORM OF SLAVERY ON EARTH? ITS TRUE!

OH YEAH - THE GUY WHO WRITES THIS ALSO WRITES FOR HARVEY COMICS, ARCHIE AND IS TRYING TO GET INTO DISNEY, WHEN HES NOT WORKING ON HIS SCIENCE FANTASY NOVEL (CAREER THEY ALL?) AND RUNNG HIS THEATER!

YES, IT WILL HAVE SEX - BUT NO O.S.S. (OBLIGATORY SEX SCENE), LIKE WHEN I SLEEP OVER AT TERRIS. ANOTHER STORY "MONDAY NIGHT" HAS MYSELF AND MY EMPLOYEES SWAPPING STORIES ON A DULL NIGHT, AND ONE STORY HAS ME IN A PHYSICAL CONFRONTATION WITH A CUSTOMER!
I'M SHY

SO PLEASE LET MIKE KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF IT! I LIKE TO TALK AND WANT TO LET PEOPLE SHARE MY LIFE! MIKES EVEN TALKING OF A NEW ORLEANS COONASS BOYFRIEND FOR ME!

Notice that Terri isn't a cricket. She's a lamb! This was before the model sheets. In talking to Carole she suggested Terri should be a cricket, and Shanda's conscience. Double R is still in development. But some of the storyline is already in place.

Shortly after I got the model sheets I came up with a story. Although I really didn't write it. It's fairly representative of most theater managers and they way they feel about Christmas. We hate working it. We'd rather be home with family. And CANNOT understand why someone would come to the theater that day. And the ending actually happened in Omaha, during opening week at my theater there. Except it was a couple that was stranded.

Mike was making input too. When he got the script, he put in CEDAR RABBITS on the kid's cap. Up to that point, I didn't know what the name of the town was. In this script, Speedo is nowhere to be seen. He hadn't been invented yet.

We did the script as a showpiece, to present to comic publishers. I really didn't even know where to go. But I had been corresponding with Roberta Gregory, of NAUGHTY BITS. I had always liked her stuff, especially her portrayals of lesbians in GAY COMIX. She told me about Edd Vick and MU. Mike had done a story for their SNOWBUNI comic. We sent the story and proposals in and Edd liked it. However.....

He wanted to start with a new story. The Christmas one would go in an anthology he was preparing, VERY MU CHRISTMAS (long out of print). As it turned out, once the first script was written, I couldn't stop. By this time, I had the first 5 issues scripted. We combined a short story with the first issue to bring the page count up, and RICOCHET ROMANCE was ready, debuting in May 1992.

Actually, that's pretty fast for a comic. Many take years in development before seeing print. I kept writing scripts, finally stopping at #51.

Shon Howell at Antarctic Press saw that first issue. Of course he also saw ALBEDO 5 & 6. Roberta had told me that Steve Gallacci needed some backups for ALBEDO. As it turned out, we had two possibilities for him to choose from. A series called COPPER AND IRON, which you will see someday, or a story about Erma's early life. He chose the latter.

SCENES FROM A ROOM debuted in ALBEDO 5. It's long out of print, but if you find it, please read our backup. I felt then and still feel it is the best work Mike and I ever did together. He called for another Erma short, which debuted in #6.

About this time Shon contacted us about bringing SHANDA to Antarctic Press. We agreed, with reservations. You see, Mike did ALL the art. The pencilling, inking, shading, and lettering. Doing a bi-monthly comic was beyond his capability, if he wanted to hold down a day job and have a family life. So we came up with a plan. He would do issue 1 and 2, and Pat Dolan would do issue 3 and 4.

The deal was made, and ads started appearing. Then disaster.

Mike did issue 1 and the cover to 2. Then he burned out. I couldn't blame him. It was so labor intensive. But Shon had an idea. There was this artist, Michele Light. She was a friend of Terrie Smith, and AP had some samples by her. We asked her to draw a pinup, which appeared in issue #1 (AP). We loved it, and she agreed to be the regular alternating SHANDA artist.

So that's why we alternate artists. We ALWAYS planned to do so, from day one at Antarctic. Nowadays, we have Christina 'Smudge" Hanson and Carla Speed McNeil. Both have their own projects, notably FINDER by Carla which is a bi-monthly comic she does EVERYTHING on. If we didn't alternate art chores, we'd lost them both.

Pat Dolan did #3, and Joe Rosales jumped in to pull off issue #4. He was originally supposed to do the backup, but when Pat couldn't do the main story he filled in. We signed up someone else for the backup...Joyceanna Brock.

I was going to my first CONFURENCE that January. With pinups by Michele and Terrie Smith and inks by Mark Barnard, Carole and I produced our first SHANDA FANTASY ARTS publication, the first SHANDA THE XXX FILES. While there, Mike Sagara and I shared an Artist's Alley table. Saturday night, we attended the caberet with Reed Waller and shared a table with him Sunday.

That led to one of the unfulfilled projects, the OMAHA/SHANDA crossover book. An illustrated script exists for this one. Also, Phil Foglio agreed to do the cover for SHANDA 5. So Ben Dunn signed us up for another run of issues. Then we went with Vision, and finally, self-publishing.

As time went on, we also did a SHANDA "Encyclopedia" and several adult digests and T shirts. And we found our new talent was coming via letters. Most of the artists, writers, inkers and letterers you see in SFA comics wrote us a letter about the comics and now find themselves producing them.

Our proudest achievement has been to open the door to the many unpublished talents in our genre. We know there are great creators out there, and we want the readers to become fans of theirs also.

SHANDA has, and rightly so, the reputation for the largest number of artists who have illustrated her adventures. Joyceanna left for other projects, her place taken first by Charles Ettinger and finally Carla Speed McNeil. Terrie Smith and Charlie Wise did fill in issues too. Then, after 20 issues had passed, Michele found it was time to leave as well. Christina "Smudge" Hanson stepped into her shoes and filled them admirably. And now for this issue, many of them are back.

So what does the future hold? Pidge is making romantic plans for Ian, Double R is trying to get a divorce, and the kids are going to college. Quinn and Richard get a two issue story

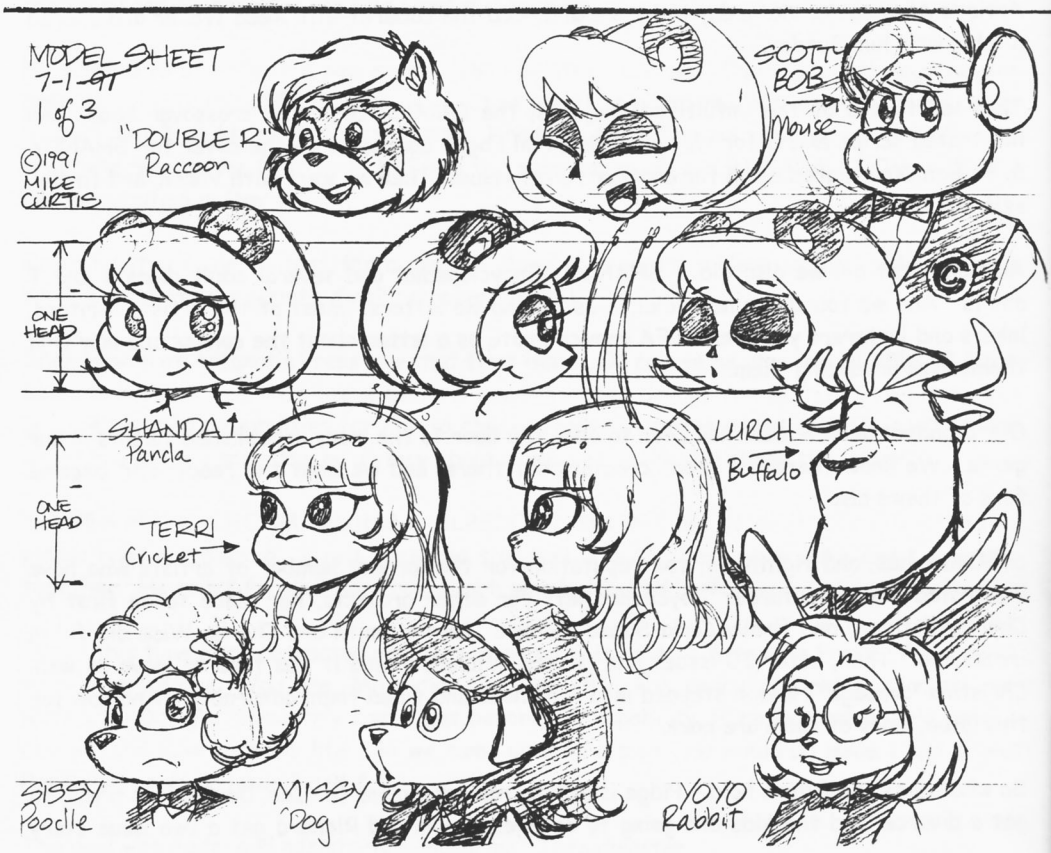
soon planned to shake their lives up considerably. The most asked question is: will the series end with #51?

Hopefully not. I would like to continue Shanda's adventures for many years to come, WAY past #51. But if we ever decide to end the series, the last scene is written.

It has Shanda, Terri, Richard, and Quinn flying in a hot air balloon and singing. I hope not to see it for a long time to come.

Thanks to everyone that made these 25 issues possible, especially the readers. I hope we never let you down.

Mike Curtis
Friday June 18 1999



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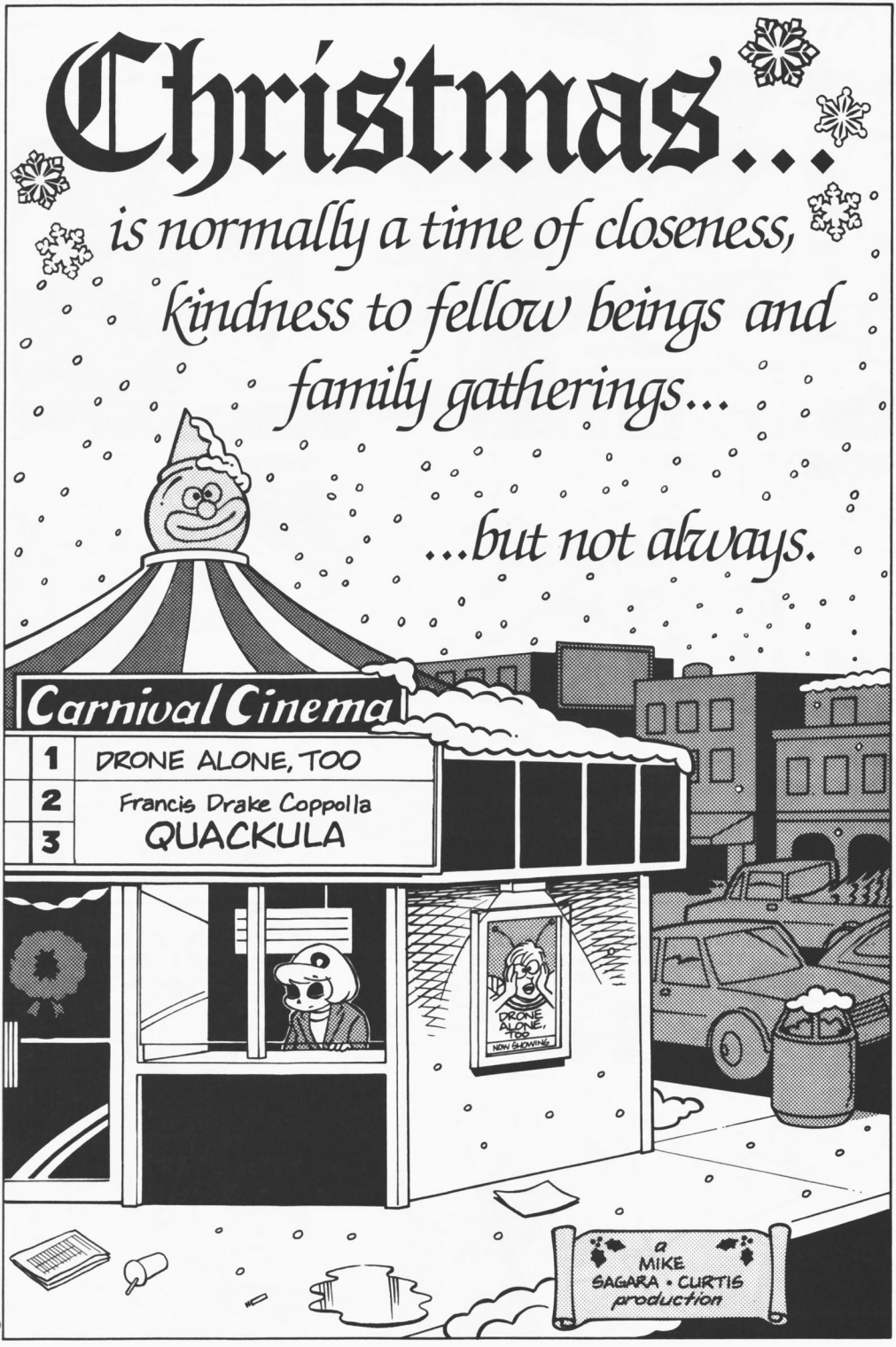
DOUBLE R
SHANDA
THE PANDA
ODDUNN

这件事情根本和我无关
WHATEVER!
DAVE GARCIA 98
PANDA KHAN © 1998 SHARP/GARCIA

Fred Perry '95

SAGUARO '99

I DON'T THINK
THIS IS ANYONE'S
COLOUR...
TW98
Albany AC


Christmas...
is normally a time of closeness, kindness to fellow beings and family gatherings...
...but not always.
Carnival Cinema
1 DRONE ALONE, TOO
2 Francis Drake Coppolla
3 QUACKULA
DRONE ALONE, TOO
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Wednesday Dec.17 - 3am
=SIGH=
CHRISTMAS EVE WOULD BE ON A WEDNESDAY THIS YEAR...
...MY DAY OFF!
GONE THE WIND
Dimmy
TASIA
ALL MY EMPLOYEES WANT THAT DAY OFF, TOO...
...BUT SOMEBODY HAS TO WORK WITH ME!
MAYBE I CAN GIVE CHRISTMAS EVE OFF TO THOSE WHO WORK CHRISTMAS DAY...
I'M SO SLEEPY... ZZZ...
2

9am
ZZZ
BRRRRT!
11am
SHOULD'VE GONE TO BED EARLIER...
...BUT THERE'S SO MUCH WORK TO DO WITH THIS PLACE!
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
THANKS... SAME TO YOU!
DRIVE TELLER
1
2
3
DRONE A
Francis
QUA
ummph!
WISH THIS THEATER HAD AN ELEVATOR FOR THESE FILM CANS!
ROOM
6pm
CRAP! I GOTTA WORK CHRISTMAS DAY!
hmm... I GOT THAT OFF, BUT I GOTTA WORK CHRISTMAS EVE!
3

MS. BRUIN, HOW CAN I GET OFF CHRISTMAS?
GET SOMEONE TO TAKE YOUR SHIFT... IT'S THE SECOND BUSIEST DAY OF THE YEAR...
...AND I'VE GOT TO HAVE A STAFF!
SOME CHRISTMAS!
MAYBE NO CUSTOMERS WILL COME CHRISTMAS!
FAT CHANCE OF THAT!
LAST CHRISTMAS I WORKED MY ASS OFF!
YES, MR. BECKER.
NO, I HAVE NOT HEARD FROM THE CARPET PEOPLE...
I'LL CALL!
WELL, LITTLE MISSY, YOU KNOW IT'S THE CHRISTMAS SEASON! YOU TELL YOUR MANAGER I'LL BE OUT AS SOON AS I CAN!
YES, I KNOW! AND I AM THE MANAGER!
PLEASE HURRY!
MS. BRUIN, CAN I GET OFF CHRISTMAS EVE?
I'VE GOT A LOT OF FAMILY COMING IN!
I CAN'T HELP IT, YOYO!
I DON'T WANT TO WORK EITHER, BUT I HAVE TO...
WE'LL HAVE A SKELETON CREW AS IT IS!
8
4

Midnight
DAY'S FINALLY OVER!
THINK I'LL STROLL OVER TO EBONY'S FOR A WHILE!
HI, TERRI!
HI, SHANDA! VERY BUSY TONIGHT?
I WAS! THE THEATER WASN'T!
WHY DO THEATERS OPEN EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR? NOBODY WANTS TO WORK!
I KNOW... AT LEAST WE'RE CLOSED.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SLEEP OVER CHRISTMAS EVE? I'LL FIX A BIG DINNER!
hrmm - DON'T YOU HAVE SOME GIRLFRIEND STAYING OVER?
ha! DON'T YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND STAYING OVER?
TOUCHÉ
SURE, I'LL BE THERE.

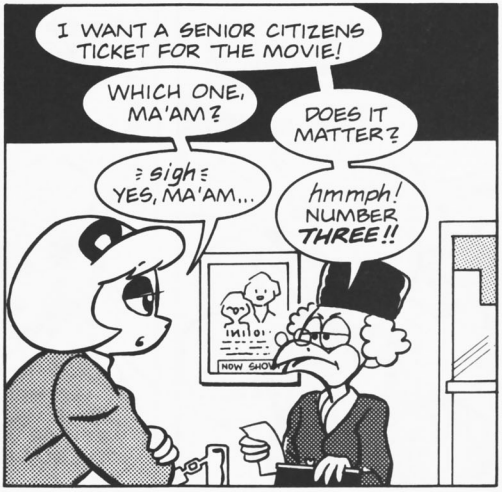
Christmas Eve 10 am
BRRT!
hmm! SNOW! HOORAY!
WISH THEY'D CANCEL! FAT CHANCE!
I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS
MR. BECKER? JUST CHECKING TO MAKE SURE WE'RE OPENING.
SHOULD'VE KNOWN!
CHIPS
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
FIGURES! CAN'T EVEN GET IN THE DOOR WITHOUT THE PHONE RINGING!
RING!
6

NO, MR. BECKER, THE FILM ISN'T HERE...I JUST GOT IN...
NO, I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM THE CARPETERS.
I'LL CALL AGAIN.
HEY, AL! SOME LADY WANTS TO TALK TO YA!!
NOW LOOK, HONEY! DON'T YOU REALIZE IT'S CHRISTMAS!!
SIR, I AM MS. BRUIN, NOT "HONEY"!
I KNOW WHAT DAY IT IS!
WE NEED THIS DONE WITHIN THE WEEK OR WE'LL HAVE TO LOOK ELSEWHERE!
RING!
AGAIN WITH THE PHONE?!
CARNIVAL TRIO.
YOYO? WHADDYA MEAN YOU CAN'T GET IN? I MADE IT IN!
GREAT! NOW I HAVE TO SET UP CONCESSION AND DO FILM!
BUTT

HEY, BOSS! MERRY CHRISTMAS!
HI, LURCH! WE'RE THE ONLY ONES HERE! YOYO CALLED AND COULDN'T DRIVE IN!
BUY!
CHOCO

hmmph! I FIGURE SHE JUST PARTIED TOO HARDY LAST NIGHT!
WE'LL GET BY!
I'M SURE!

FILM COMES IN ON THE 9am BUS? I'LL PICK IT UP!
SORRY, GOTTA GO... I'M SHORT A PERSON AND PEOPLE WANT IN!
SHOWING


I WANT A SENIOR CITIZENS TICKET FOR THE MOVIE!
WHICH ONE, MA'AM?
DOES IT MATTER?
:sigh: YES, MA'AM...
hmmph! NUMBER THREE!!

AND YOUNG LADY! YOU NEED TO GET SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER ABOUT YOU!
SHOWING

.....

CHRISTMAS CHEER...
WHAT IN HELL HAVE I GOT TO BE CHEERFUL ABOUT?
EVERYBODY IS CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS BUT ME --- LEAVE TONIGHT AT MIDNIGHT, PICK UP FILM AT 9am ---
EVERYBODY GETS TO BE WITH THEIR FAMILY BUT ME FOR CHRISTMAS! I'M STUCK IN THIS TWO BIT BURG AND CAN'T GET ANY RESPECT---AND EVERY-BODY AND THEIR THIRD DAMN COUSIN WISHES ME A MERRY * FUCKING * CHRISTMAS!!
9

HEY, BOSS! LURCH TO BOSS! YOU OFF IN THE TWILIGHT ZONE?
WELL, CONCESSION'S CLEAN---ONLY GOT FIVE PEOPLE IN ONE SHOW--- I'M TAKING OFF! HAVE A GOOD CHRISTMAS...WHAT'S LEFT OF IT!
THANKS, LURCH! MERRY CHRISTMAS!
DRAT! THE PHONE ALWAYS RINGS WHEN IT'S MOST INCONVENIENT!
RING!
MOM!
HI! I'M SO GLAD YOU CALLED!
HOW'S DAD? AND KERI? AND JAN?
YEAH, I'M STAYING OVER AT A FRIEND'S HOUSE---HER NAME'S TERRI...SHE'S REAL SWEET...
I LOVE YOU, MOM.
10

FINALLY GOT THE LAST ONE TO BED!
CINEMECCANICAS ARE SUCH A BITCH WITH REWIND TIME!
SOMEBODY STILL ON THE PAY PHONE? IT'S 12:00!
OH, MS? uh,.. WE'RE CLOSED... AND I NEED TO LEAVE...
OH! I'M SORRY!
M-MY CAR WON'T START--- I THINK IT'S THE GENERATOR! AND A TAXI WANTS $50 AND AN HOUR TO PICK UP ME AND MY SON...
CEDAR RABBITS
I'M SORRY! IS THAT THE TAXI MAN? CAN I SPEAK TO HIM?
SURE...
HELLO, SIR? THIS IS MS. BRUIN, THE THEATER MANAGER,..
...I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU TO GO TO HELL FOR CHRISTMAS. YOU HEARD ME--- GO TO HELL.
MERRY CHRISTMAS.
11

I'LL GIVE YOU TWO A RIDE HOME!
LET ME MAKE A CALL FIRST!
BLESS YOU, MISS!
TERRI, I'LL BE THERE IN A FEW MINUTES...
...SANTA'S GOT A COUPLE OF DELIVERIES TO MAKE!
LOVE YOU! BYE!
Christmas...
is normally a time of closeness, kindness to fellow beings and family gatherings...
...and family is sometimes where you find it.
End

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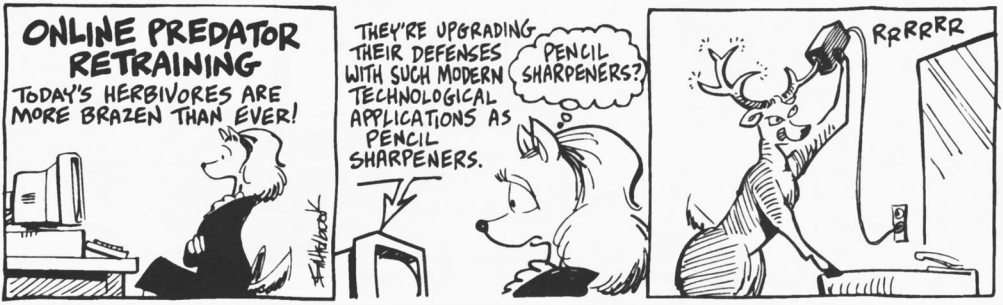
WELL, I JUST WANTED IT MORE!
I HAD THE DESIRE... THE WILL... THE DRIVE TO SUCCEED THAT MOST OF THE GUYS DON'T HAVE!
WHY NOT?
"THEY'RE FINICKY."
Billbrook

HOW WAS HUNTING PRACTICE?
BUMMER. THE TEAM GOT SOME BAD NEWS.
HOMECOMING'S BEEN CANCELLED.
OH, DEAR! WHAT HAPPENED?
THE HERDS MIGRATED EARLY.
NOW IT'S AN "AWAY" GAME.
Billbrook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TODAY'S HERBIVORES ARE MORE BRAZEN THAN EVER!
THEY'RE UPGRADING THEIR DEFENSES WITH SUCH MODERN TECHNOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS AS PENCIL SHARPENERS.
PENCIL SHARPENERS?
RRRRRR
Billbrook

Seen weekdays at http://www.reuben.org/holbrook/kevkel.html.

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SHANDA FAN MART

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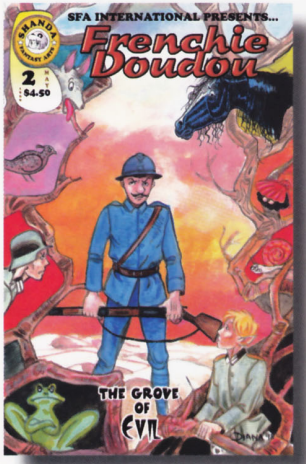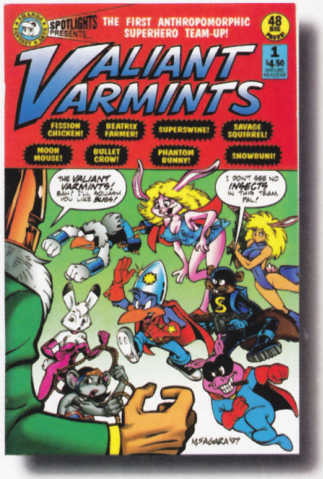
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